



*The New Hampshire State Police
Major Crime Unit
Family Services Section
presents:*

THE INTERNET & YOUR CHILDREN

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Major Crime
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National Trooper Number
(800) 525-5555

Troop A
(603) 679-3333

Troop B
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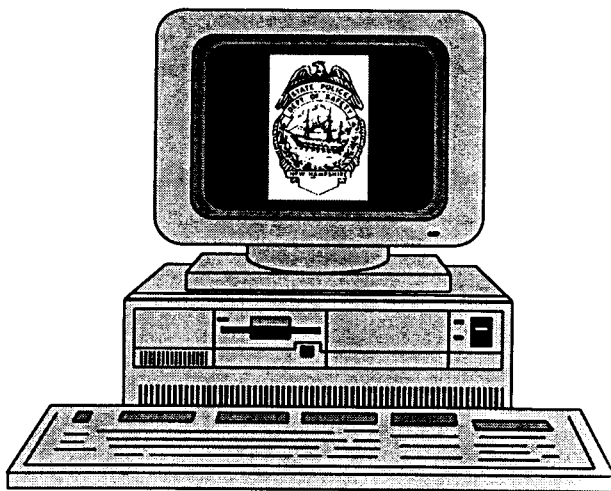
Troop E
(603) 323-3333

Troop F
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Richard M. Flynn
Commissioner
Department of Safety

Colonel John J. Barthelmes
Director – State Police

D.A.R.E.
**TO RESIST DRUGS
AND VIOLENCE**



A PARENT'S GUIDE:

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE
FROM COMPUTER CRIME**

The sexual exploitation of children is a sensitive and emotional topic that continues to receive increasing public attention. While Children have been sexually exploited for centuries, authorities have only lately begun to understand the severity and scope of the problem. The common belief that child sexual molestations are infrequent and isolated is gradually being replaced by the knowledge that there is a significant population of **pedophiles** who actively prey upon children (pedophilia is a sexual perversion in which children are the preferred sexual objects). The Internet is now a popular tool for pedophiles.

The Internet allows a predator to anonymously enter homes and steal our children right out from under us. Typically, the children are **persuaded** and **desensitized** toward sex by the use of pornography and descriptive sexual talk. The children, whom are flattered and curious, **rarely** report any unacceptable communication

According to statistics gathered by The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children there were 114,600 attempted **non-family** child abductions in 1996. Of that number 4,600 were actually abducted. A further breakdown reveals that:

74%	Were Girls
62%	Perpetrator was a Stranger

and almost half of the victims were **age 12** and older.

TAKE CONTROL

1. **Be There.** Quality time with children results in them spending time with **YOU** and not with some computer predator.
2. **Keep It Open.** Keep computers out in an open place, such as the living room, den and kitchen. Keep computers *out of the bedroom* and have a open door rule.
3. **Learn.** Get to know how your computer works. Contact your on-line service and get the information you need to effectively monitor your child's computer time. *Knowledge is power.*
4. **Teach.** Make your child aware of on-line concerns. Tell them to **NEVER** give out their real name, address or phone number.
5. **Supervise.** Oversee your child's computer time. Randomly check who they are talking to, what they are talking about and where they are going on the computer.

THE LAW

6. **Say NO!** Do not allow any unsupervised communication in public or private "chat" rooms.
7. **Report.** Advise your on-line provider if you receive any unwanted pornography or vulgar material of any kind.

WARNING SIGNS

- HIDDEN: FILES, DISKETTES, CD ROM'S OR OTHER COMPUTER ITEMS
- UNWILLINGNESS TO TALK ABOUT WHO THEY ARE COMMUNICATING WITH AND WHAT IS BEING SAID
- CHILD IS RECEIVING MAIL WITH NO RETURN ADDRESS
- CHILD IS RECEIVING -GIF; -JPG OR OTHER GRAPHIC FILES
- CHILD IS **RELUCTANT** TO ALLOW YOU TO VIEW THE COMPUTER SCREEN.
- CHILD USES THE COMPUTER BEHIND CLOSED DOORS.
- CHILD IS MEETING WITH PEOPLE YOU DO NOT KNOW.

"Once you bring life into the world, you must protect it. We must protect it by changing the world."

Elie Wiesel (b. 1928), Rumanian-born U.S. writer. Interview in *Writers at Work* (Eighth Series, ed. by George Plimpton, 1988).¹








IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

SOLICIT A MINOR TO ENGAGE IN SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONDUCT THROUGH THE COMPUTER

TO SEND A MINOR SEXUALLY EXPLICIT IMAGES THROUGH THE COMPUTER

TO POSSESS, RECEIVE OR DISTRIBUTE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

IF YOU SUSPECT AN ILLEGAL ACT HAS OCCURRED:

-  IMMEDIATELY CUT OFF CHILD'S ACCESS TO THE COMPUTER.
-  WRITE DOWN ALL SCREEN INFORMATION.
-  CALL POLICE.
-  CHECK FOR ANY DOCUMENTS OR RECORDS YOU MAY HAVE TO SHOW TO THE POLICE.
-  DOCUMENT ANY UNUSUAL TELEPHONE CALLS.
-  SAVE MAIL SENT TO YOUR CHILD.
-  COMPLAIN TO YOUR ON-LINE SERVICE.

COMPUTER TERMS

INTERNET: A world wide electronic communications network consisting of millions of computer users. In addition to commercial web-sites, any person with a computer and a modem can communicate through the Internet for *any purpose* they may choose.

WEB-SITE: A computerized Internet store front that may belong to a commercial venture or a private individual.

ON-LINE: Term used to describe an individual using a personal computer to call a commercial bulletin board system (BBS). When the computer is connected to the BBS through a modem, it is called "on-line."

ELECTRONIC MAIL (E-Mail):

Computer mail systems that enable rapid communication between individuals through the computer by the ability to send and receive electronic messages.

MODEM: A device that enables your computer to use your phone to call other computers or BBS's.

DOWNLOADING: Transferring images or information from an on-line service or BBS to your personal computer.

GIF / JPG FILES: Computer files ending with one of these usually indicates that the file contains photographic images.

ADDITIONAL FACTS

☞ There are computer bulletin boards set up specifically for the seduction of children.

☞ Child molesters/pedophiles are looking for victims on the INTERNET, where children of the 90's play.

☞ "Parents had better get wise to the combination of kids, computers and sex, experts say, because their children may already be involved. From grabbing erotic photos off of phone lines to engaging in 'cybersex' (having sexually explicit conversations with other users), computer-savvy kids are being exposed to things many parents can't conceive of."
Women's Day, 8/9/94

☞ "The first time children hear about the wonders and dangers of computer networks should be from parents. Going on-line together is a wonderful opportunity to instill cautious and responsible use in your children with respect to this incredibly powerful medium."
M.I.T's Sherry Turkle, Women's Day, 8/9/94